



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

**AUG 31 2017**

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

WC-15J

**CERTIFIED MAIL 7016 3010 0000 9203 3977**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Thomas Moe, Environmental Engineer  
Minnesota Ore Operations  
United States Steel Corporation - Minntac  
P.O. Box 417  
Mountain Iron, Minnesota 55768

Subject: Clean Water Act Compliance Sampling Inspection Notification  
United States Steel Corporation – Minntac Mine, Mountain Iron, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Moe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will conduct a Clean Water Act compliance sampling inspection at the Minntac Tailings Basin facility beginning on September 12, 2017. The inspection and this document review request are authorized pursuant to EPA regulations and Federal environmental statutes, including but not limited to Section 308(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a).

A list of records and documents requested by our EPA inspectors to be available for review is attached. We believe that many of these records are, or should be, readily available at your facility.

You may, if you desire, assert a confidentiality claim covering part of or all of the information requested, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 2.203(b), by attaching to such information, at the time it is submitted, a cover sheet, stamped or typed legend, or other suitable form of notice employing language such as "trade secret" or "proprietary" or "company confidential". Information covered by such a claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent, and only by means of the procedures set forth in the regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 2 Subpart B. If no such claim accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to you. In any event, you should read the above cited regulations carefully before asserting a business confidentiality claim, since certain categories of information are not properly the subject of such a claim.

If you have questions regarding this inspection, please feel free to contact Dean Maraldo, Lead Inspector, at (312) 353-2098, or by email at [maraldo.dean@epa.gov](mailto:maraldo.dean@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Bahr", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Bahr  
Chief, Water Enforcement and Compliance  
Assurance Branch, Section 2

Enclosure

cc: Chrissy Bartovich, United States Steel Corporation  
Ann Foss, MPCA  
Jeff Stollenwerk, MPCA  
John Thomas, MPCA

## GENERAL PROCEDURE

During the Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance inspection, EPA inspectors will be reviewing documents kept for your facility. In order to expedite this portion of the inspection, EPA is providing you a written list of the documents that may be reviewed. EPA will request copies of certain documents of those reviewed on-site as needed. Other documents may also be requested that are not listed. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) individual permit issued by the MPCA is referenced throughout this document as the "individual permit" and refers to the NPDES Permit No. MN0057207, with an expiration date of July 31, 1992. Please ensure these documents are made available for the inspectors. You may also submit the documents electronically to the Lead Inspector noted on the inspection notification letter.

Documents to be made available:

1. Description of the facility's organizational structure, with an emphasis on management, facility operations and maintenance, and environmental compliance.
2. Site plans and/or maps indicating the location of the Minntac tailings basin, delineated facility boundaries, surface water monitoring locations, and all known locations of discharges to surface water, including all outfalls, ditches, spills, and seeps.
3. Records of any bypass, spill, upset, or permit violation as required by U.S. Steel Minntac NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0057207 from July 2014 to present.
4. Minntac tailings basin water balance reports, water flow diagrams, and berm seepage testing and sampling reports developed since July 2014.
5. Hydrogeologic reports (including all exhibits, such as maps, aerial photographs, and figures), developed pursuant to the requirements of NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0057207, issued on September 30, 1987.
6. Permit application and any supporting documentation (including all exhibits, such as maps, photos and figures), submitted by USS to MPCA for NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0057207, issued on September 30, 1987.
7. MODLFLOW and MT3DMS input and output files, and any supporting files and documents, used to develop U.S. Steel's Groundwater Flow and Sulfate Transport Modeling Report (CRA, 2013). Please provide model reports, input and output files, and any supporting files and documents on a USB flash drive or CD.
8. Discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and corresponding field and/or laboratory data (e.g., bench sheets, monitoring/testing equipment calibration records, chain of custody records) for the past two (2) years per the individual permit. In addition, all supplemental reports, if submitted with DMRs.